

Press Conference

Leaders Urge President to Sign Free Trade Agreements,

Bring 1,000's of Jobs to South Florida

Congressman Allen West (FL-22), Port Everglades Director Phil Allen, Broward County Commissioner Chip LaMarca, and local employers from both the shipping and floral industries will be speaking on the dock in front of a container ship at Florida's leading port- Port Everglades- as they urge President Obama to sign the Free Trade Agreements this week.

When: Tuesday, October 18th

Time: 3:00 pm

Where: Port Everglades, 1850 Eller Drive

* Reporters will meet at administration building and be escorted to container ship

Background: In a bipartisan effort, both the House of Representatives and Senate passed the Free Trade Agreements last week, opening up free trade with Colombia, Panama and South Korea. Local employers are urging President Obama to not waste anymore time and sign them into law. Port Everglades is the largest exporter in the state of Florida and as a result, an estimated \$11 billion dollars in trade, impacting 55,000 local jobs a year will be affected.

West says:

"With South Florida being the gateway to Latin America, the Free Trade Agreements will support and create potentially hundreds of local jobs by leveling the playing field for U.S. goods and services. These long overdue trade agreements will increase exports, lower the trade deficit and stimulate much-needed U.S. economic growth."

Port Everglades Director Phil Allen says:

"The Port is expected to grow by leaps and bounds now that this bill is passed. Jobs will be added to all industries from truck drivers to the customs industry. We are very encouraged about the economic impact this legislation will have on the South Florida community."

Media planning to attend the event, please contact Angela Sachitano at 202-731-1778.

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